

Together for Quality (TFQ)
Interim Summary of Measure Results
Obtained in April 2009

Why the TFQ Clinical Measures?

The TFQ Clinical Workgroup, a multi-stakeholder group of 50+ members from diverse backgrounds including but not limited to providers, academia, other state agencies, and private and public entities such as Blue Cross Blue Shield of Alabama, Alabama Quality Assurance Foundation chose two priority diseases, asthma and diabetes, as its focus for the quality improvement model for chronic diseases component of Together for Quality. This chronic care management component of the pilot is called Q4U. In addition to choosing the diseases, this group also chose the measures and assisted in the development of the measure specifications to allow baselines and results to be obtained. The five asthma measures include two asthma controller measures, the Annual Influenza Immunization, Asthma Emergency Department Visit and Asthma-Related Hospitalizations. The five diabetic measures include Annual HbA1C, Annual Influenza Immunization, Annual Lipid Profile, Annual Eye Exam and Annual Urine Protein Screening. The Clinical Workgroup also chose the end of pilot target goals for each condition that consisted of a 0.5-1 percentage point decrease from baseline for all Asthma measures with the exception of the Annual Influenza Immunization and a 5 percentage point increase from baseline for all diabetic measures. The specific measures chosen are:

Asthma

- Asthma Controller Use (2)
- Annual Influenza Immunization
- Emergency Department Visits
- Hospitalizations

Diabetes

- Annual Influenza Immunization
- Annual HbA1C
- Annual Lipid Profile
- Annual Eye Exam
- Annual Urine Protein Screening

The summary results at the links found below are based on interim results obtained in April of 2009. The results are for the TFQ Pilot as a whole which includes two counties with care management only, three counties with the clinical support tool only and six counties with both. The care management only counties are Bullock and Pike counties. The clinical support tool counties are Jefferson, Houston and Winston. The combined counties include Calhoun, Lamar, Montgomery, Pickens, Talladega and Tuscaloosa. Please compare the results found in **Column D** to those in **Column F** then look to see whether the results in **Column F** meet the targets set in **Column G**. Interim results available at the following links:

http://www.medicaid.alabama.gov/Transformation/Pilot_Counties_Asthma_Measures.aspx

http://www.medicaid.alabama.gov/Transformation/Pilot_Co_Diabetic_Measures.aspx

Measure Results

All five asthma measures showed improvement and four actually met the end of pilot target goals chosen by the workgroup for the overall pilot counties. For these four measures, lower is best. The one measure not meeting the target goal was the Annual Influenza Immunization. The Annual Influenza Immunization measure goal for Asthma and Diabetes are both 36.3%, the NCQA Commercial HEDIS 2005 National Average.

All five diabetic measures also showed improvement from the baselines for the overall pilot results (higher is best) but only the Annual Lipid measure met the established end of pilot target goal chosen.

Individual county results vary from county to county with some counties showing marked improvements and others showing little to no improvement. The county level results should not only be viewed by comparing the county results to the “All Pilot Counties” results but by comparing an individual county baseline result in **Column B** to the actual results obtained for that county in **Column F**.

The final measure results will be obtained and reported post pilot based on dates of service through March 31, 2010 with paid dates through June 2010 to be consistent with methodology used to obtain initial measure baselines.